

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1 - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing silane-containing polyvinyl alcohols and polyvinyl acetals by:

- a) free-radically polymerizing one or more vinyl esters of unbranched or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms in the presence of silane-containing aldehydes or hemiacetals or full acetals thereof to produce a vinyl ester polymer,
- b) hydrolyzing the vinyl ester polymers to form a partly hydrolyzed or fully hydrolyzed vinyl ester polymer, and
- c) optionally acetalizing of the partly hydrolyzed or fully hydrolyzed vinyl ester polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein free-radically polymerizing is carried out by means of bulk polymerization, suspension polymerization or by polymerization in organic solvents.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein hydrolyzing of the vinyl ester polymers takes place in alkaline or acidic media.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein acetalizing is effected by reacting the partly or fully hydrolyzed vinyl ester polymer with aliphatic or aromatic aldehydes having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulfonate, ammonium, and aldehyde radicals.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein further silane-containing compounds or aldehyde-containing compounds or mixtures thereof are additionally used as regulators in the polymerization.

23 - 27. (Cancelled).

28. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein the silane-containing aldehydes and hemiacetals and full acetals thereof are selected from the group consisting of compounds of the structural formulae

- I)  $R_3Si-[OSiR_2]_y-(CH_2)_x-CH=O,$
- II)  $R_3Si-[OSiR_2]_y-(CH_2)_x-CH(OR^1)_2,$
- III)  $R_3Si-[OSiR_2]_y-(CH_2)_z-Ar-(CH_2)_z-CH=O,$
- IV)  $R_3Si-[OSiR_2]_y-(CH_2)_z-Ar-(CH_2)_z-CH(OR^1)_2,$
- V)  $O=CH-(CH_2)_x-Si(R)_2-O-Si(R)_2-(CH_2)_x-CH=O,$
- VI)  $[SiO(R)-(CH_2)_z-CH=O]_{3-4},$

where R individually is halogen; is an unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkyl or alkoxy radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms; is an acyl radical having from 2 to 12 carbon atoms, where R may optionally be interrupted by one or more non-adjacent heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S; is an optionally substituted aryl or aryloxy radical having 3 to 20 carbon atoms, where the aryl radical may also contain one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, and

$R^1$  individually is H, an unbranched or branched, saturated or unsaturated, optionally substituted alkyl radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms which may optionally be interrupted by non-adjacent heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S; Ar is an aromatic group which may optionally contain one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, and

x is from 2 to 40, y is from 0 to 100, and z is from 0 to 20.

29. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein the silane-containing aldehydes are used in an amount of from 0.0001 to 5.0% by weight, based on the total weight of the monomers.

30. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein ethylenically unsaturated, silane-containing monomers are copolymerized.